## CARVED CAPITALS FROM PARIS.

## THE CHAPEL ROYAL, WHITEHALL.

THE INTERIOR OF THE BANQUETING HOUSE.

ALL the world knows the appearance presented by the outside of the Banqueting House, at Whitehall,—the work of Inigo Jones,—but very few know what description of apartment it forms within.

The site of Whitehall was purchased in the reign of Henry VIII., the ancient palace of Westminster having fallen into decay, and the king built upon the void ground, "many distinct, beautiful, costly, and pleasant lodgings for his Grace's singular pleasure, comfort, and commodity."* These occupied both sides of what is now the road, and there was a public way through the palace from Westminster to Charing-cross, by two gates, one called Whitehall-gate, the other the King-street-gate. The character of the buildings was late Tudor, and included galleries, courts, and a banqueting hall. On the 12th of January, 1618-19, the old banqueting house was burnt down, and Inigo Jones was ordered to erect a new one. The first stone of this was laid on the 1st of June, in the same year, and the building was finished in March, 1622.

When reviewing the "Life of Inigo Jones," issued a short time ago by the Shakspeare Society, we mentioned the discovery at the Audit Office of the account of the "Charges in building a Banqueting-house at Whitehall, and of erecting a new Pier in the Isle of Portland, for conveyance of stone from thence to Whitehall." The pier cost 712*l.* 19s. 2d.; and the banqueting-house, 14,940*l.* 4s. 1d.

In that account, the new banqueting-hall is thus described:—

"A new building, with a vault under the same, in length 110 feet, and in width 55 feet within; the wall of the foundation being in thickness 14 feet, and in depth 10 feet within ground, brought up with brick; the first story, to the height of 16 feet, wrought of Oxfordshire stone, cut into rustique on the outside and brick on the inside; the walls 8 feet thick, with a vault turned over on great square pillars of brick, and paved in the bottom with Purbeck stone; the walls and vaulting laid with finishing mortar; the upper story being the banqueting-house, 55 feet in height, to the laying on of the roof; the walls 5 feet thick, and wrought of Northamptonshire stone, cut in rustique, with two orders of columns and pilasters, Ionic and Composite, with their architrave, friese, and cornice, and other ornaments; also rails and ballasters round about the top of the building, all of Portland stone, with fourteen windows on each side, and one great window at the upper end, and five doors of stone with frontispiece and cartooses; the inside brought up with brick, finished over with two orders of columns and pilasters, part of stone and part of brick, with their architectural friese and cornice, with a gallery upon the two sides, and the lower end borne upon great cartooses of timber carved, with rails and ballasters of timber, and the floor laid with spruce deals; a strong timber roof covered with lead, and under it a ceiling divided into a fret made of great cornices enriched with carving; with painting, glazing, &c."

"The master-mason was Nicholas Stone, the sculptor of the fine monument to Sir Francis Vere, in Westminster Abbey. His pay was 4s. 10d. the day. The masons' wages were from 12d. to 2s. 6d. the man per diem; the carpenters were paid at the same rate; while the bricklayers received from 14d. to 2s. 2d. the day."*

The Banqueting Hall formed but a small part of Jones's design, which contemplated a palace of great magnitude and beauty, but nothing more was done.

King Charles I. was beheaded in the front of the Banqueting Hall, and Charles II. entered it in triumph at his restoration. His speech to the Commons, delivered in this Hall, March 1662, shows that the tide rose here at times.—he called upon them to pass laws for amending the ways, so that his wife might enter the town with decency, and "not find *Whitehall surrounded with water*."†

In 1691 some part of the palace was burnt down, and a second fire in 1698 (N.S.) destroyed all but the Banqueting House.

Vanbrugh built a house in Scotland-yard (so called from that portion of the palace precincts having been appropriated for the residence of the Kings of Scotland when in England to do homage) out of the ruins of the palace.

It was of this house Swift said,—

"At length we in the rubbish spy,
A thing resembling a goose-pye."

Inigo Jones also lived in Scotland-yard.

The Hall was converted into a chapel in the reign of George I., who ordered, in 1724, that the duty of preaching there should be performed by twenty-four clergymen, half of Oxford, half of Cambridge.

It was shut up in 1829, and remained closed till 1837, during which time it was restored and refitted, as we now see it, under the direction of Sir Robert Smirke, for which a very large sum of money was expended. The roof was found to be decayed and worm-eaten to an extraordinary extent, and was therefore wholly renewed. The ceiling, though also of wood, was very sound, and was retained. The pews of wainscot; the royal closet (seen in our engraving on the west side), and the columns which carry the organ-gallery, were put up at this time. Great inconvenience was found in performing service; the echo was so great that the minister was unable to make himself heard. To remedy this, the lower windows were closed up, but this had no effect. The walls were then hung with drapery ‡ (as shown in our engraving), and the floor carpetted, by which means great improvement was effected.

The ceiling, which is divided into panels by bands, ornamented with a guilloche, is painted black and gilded in parts. The panels contain pictures by Rubens, painted abroad in 1635, in honour of King James I. The northernmost of the three large compartments represents the king pointing to Peace and Plenty, embracing Minerva and routing Rebellion and Envy. The centre compartment shows the king trampling on the globe, and flying on the wings of Justice (an eagle) to heaven. At the south (the altar) end, the king is on the throne pointing to Prince Charles, who is being perfected by Wisdom. For these pictures, in the execution of which Rubens is said to have been assisted by Jordaens, he received 3,000*l.* The effect of them is greatly injured by the loops by means of which they are affixed to the ceiling, and to be seen at all they must be viewed from the south end of the apartment. Van Dyke was to have painted the sides.

The Hall is exactly a double cube, being 111 feet long, 55 feet 6 inches high, and 55 feet 6 inches wide.*

* Malcolm's *Londinium Redivivum*.

* P. Cunningham's "Life of Inigo Jones."

† Malcolm.

‡ 1,600 yards of druggot were used for the purpose.

* The statue of James II. behind Whitehall is the work of Grinling Gibbons, and was put up December 31, 1686.

## CARVED CAPITALS FROM PARIS.

WE add to our former examples of Capitals from the French capital two other specimens of elegant design.

## A SUGGESTED LOCALITY FOR THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

THE very limited space and indifferent accommodation at present enjoyed by the Institute in their apartments at No. 16, Grosvenor-street, have naturally led to many suggestions: among them the following is, I think, worthy of attentive consideration:—

To take the premises, No. 24, Great George-street, Westminster, adjoining the Institute of Civil Engineers these can possibly be had at a rental of 300*l.* per annum), to form openings in the party-wall, and have a joint use of the lecture-room: one very well adapted for the purposes of a public meeting: in consideration of this the Institute of Architects to make an annual contribution of books to the library of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

I have reason to believe that such a proposition would be favourably received by the Institution of Civil Engineers, and would be a manifest advantage to all parties.

PALATIM.

SANITARY MOVEMENT IN OXFORD.—The town-council having asked Mr. Cubitt to recommend a fit person to inquire into the sanitary condition of the city, that gentleman has proposed Mr. M'Dougal Smith for the purpose.

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